



The European Regions Network  
for Health Research & Innovation



## Welcome to the Second RegHealth-RI Newsletter

The European Regions' Network for Health Research and Innovation (RegHealth-RI) is a two year European project which started in November 2014.

RegHealth-RI aims to bridge the gap in Research and Innovation (R&I) across European regions, focusing on the health area, by investigating new measures to reduce differences in R&I performance, to identify the drivers of these differences, and building synergies between Structural Funds and Horizon 2020.

### PROJECT NEWS



### **RegHealth-RI Workshop in Trieste**

The second workshop of the RegHealth-RI project, “Horizon 2020: Synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and new ways for widening participation”, was held in Trieste on 26-27 November 2015. The workshop gathered representatives from the RegHealth-RI project consortium, advisory board and associated partners, together with external experts representing stakeholders from several EU countries, including regional authorities, business and industry, academia and research organisations. The workshop focused on the following four key topics:

- Analysis of the regional disparities in terms of health research and innovation: Conclusions and Policy recommendations (follow-up of the Madrid Workshop)
- Identification and analysis of possible actions/initiatives/programmes to facilitate synergies between Horizon 2020 and ESIFs
- Analysis of the preliminary results of the calls of Horizon 2020 and discussion on new ways for widening the participation
- Present situation of future actions planned for the RHInG-Net Network (launched in July 2015) and other project activities.

More information on the workshop, including the speaker presentations, is available [here](#).

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### **Interested in Health, Research and Innovation? Join RHInG-Net Network!**

RHInG-NET is an informal network which gathers approximately 90 (up to present) European stakeholders active in the fields of health, research and innovation. RHInG-NET is an official deliverable of the RegHealth-RI project and it aims to engage the members of the project consortium, advisory board, associated partners and other external experts and stakeholders.

The purpose of the network is to promote and enrich the dialogue, exchange of opinions and experiences regarding health, research and innovation, and to provide feedback on the RegHealth-RI deliverables. RHInG-NET will also provide sustainability to RegHealth-RI

as it will continue to promote dialogue and exchange of experiences amongst its members after the project is finalised.

Are you interested in health, research and innovation, and want to connect with peers and European experts and stakeholders in this field? Then you should join RHInG-NET [here](#). You can find more information about the network, its blog and online library [here](#).

## RELATED NEWS

### **Webinar on Proposal Writing on Socio-economic Sciences Integration in Health**

On 2 February, the European project Health NCP Net 2.0 (HNN 2.0) organised a webinar with the title “Understanding the socio-economic sciences integration in health topics – writing successful proposals including socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH) aspects”.

The webinar was led by Elena Maffia, one of the Italian National Contact Points (NCPs), and it targeted the Societal Challenge 1 (SC1) topics and addressed all SC1 NCPs, and applicants to Horizon 2020 calls related to health. The webinar further provided useful information to take into consideration if you are planning to submit a proposal in topics that contain SSH-related themes. The presentations from the webinar, as well as the recording of the webinar are available online [here](#) and [here](#).

### **European Commission Presents Evaluation of 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme**

On 25 January 2016, the European Commission published the ex-post evaluation of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), the EU's research funding programme between 2007 and 2013. The evaluation is based on a report conducted by a group of independent high level experts, together with the Commission's response to the recommendations made by the group of experts.

Some of the key findings of the evaluation conclude that FP7 was effective in strengthening scientific excellence, increased the competitiveness of Europe's industry, had a positive impact on growth and jobs in the EU, fostered inter-disciplinary research, and increased Europe-wide collaboration and networking in research and innovation.

The evaluation also lists a number of shortcomings with FP7 namely; that the different parts of FP7 operated too much as isolated silos, that large-scale simplification could have been further improved, and that FP7 was not successful in building synergies with other related European funding schemes. For more information, please see [here](#).

### **EU Conference on “Better Research for Better Health”**

On 21 January 2016, the European Commission organised a conference in Brussels with the title “Better research for better health, a holistic approach for challenges and opportunities”. The conference was the first annual conference of the European Commission’s Scientific Panel for Health (SPH), and the objective of the conference was to present the SPH’s initial findings after its first year of work. Topics discussed included; challenges in EU health research, cross-border research, and biomedical research policy. More information on the conference is available [here](#).

The SPH is a unique group of experts from across Europe that advises the European Commission on long-term challenges and bottlenecks in the health research field, and on the potential solutions to them. More information on the SPH is available [here](#).

### **New Networking Tool for Horizon 2020: ICT for health**

The European Commission has recently launched a new networking tool for actors interested in submitting proposals to the calls related to “ICT for Health, Wellbeing, and Demographic Change” in Horizon 2020. The purpose of the online tool is to help match potential partners to each other and facilitate for developing proposals.

Through the networking tool you can create a profile and indicate which topics your organisation is interested in, and you can also submit information on existing project ideas to find partners for your proposal. For more information, please see [here](#).

### **European Commission Launches “Seal of Excellence” Certificate**

In October 2015, the European Commission launched a new research certificate for “seal of excellence”, with the purpose of increasing the quality of regional research funding. The certificate is aimed at warranting accountability and efficiency in managing and spending taxpayer money by fostering synergies between EU funding for regional policy and research.

The “seal of excellence” functions as a quality label, awarded to project proposals submitted for funding under Horizon 2020, which succeeded in passing all of the stringent selection and award criteria but could not be funded under the available call budget. The seal thereby identifies promising project proposals which merit funding from alternative sources (public or private), i.e. national, regional, European or international. For more information, please see [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Project Events

#### **30 - 31 May, 3rd RegHealth-RI Workshop**

The third, and final, RegHealth-RI workshop will be organised in Zagreb at the end of May. More information on the workshop will be uploaded on the RHInG-NET and RegHealth-RI websites closer to the event.

#### **October (*Dates TBC*), RegHealth-RI Final Conference**

The final conference of the RegHealth-RI project will be organised in Brussels at the end of October. The main achievements of the RegHealth-RI project will be presented and discussed with key experts and stakeholders from the field of health, research and innovation, with special focus on policy and decision makers at European, national and subnational level. More information on the conference will be uploaded on the RHInG-NET and RegHealth-RI websites closer to the event.

### Related Events

#### **15 March, Launch of EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation**

EU-LAC HEALTH is a European project with the aim to develop a guide for policy makers and other stakeholders to support cooperative health research between Latin America and Caribbean countries (LAC) and the European Commission and EU Member States.

On 15 March, the project will organise a conference in Brussels where the Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation (JIRI-Health) will be launched. The JIRI-Health is a bi-regional joint programming initiative in health research and innovation, which will be implemented by using existing funding instruments according to topics jointly agreed between the EU and LAC countries. For more information, please see [here](#).



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